



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

22 May 2006

Week of 22 May 2006

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***Hurricane Relief Extension Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5354). 

This bill – an amendment to the Hurricane Education

Recovery Act – allows the Secretary of Education to extend, beyond the 2005-06 school year, the period during which a State educational agency or local educational agency may obligate temporary emergency impact aid for elementary and secondary schools that enroll students displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Rita. Nevertheless, such funds still may be used only for expenses incurred during the 2005-06 school year. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] has not prepared an official cost estimate for this measure, but it is not expected to affect direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or revenue.

2) ***Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives in Support of the Goals of National One-Stop Month*** (H.Res. 808). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

3) ***Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005*** (S. 1235). 

This bill makes changes to several veterans' programs, primarily to the servicemembers' group life insurance and housing programs. CBO estimates that enacting this bill will reduce direct spending for veterans programs by \$3 million dollars in fiscal year 2007, and increase direct spending by less than \$500,000 over the 2007-11 period.

4) ***To Amend Section 308 of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act to Make Certain Clarifying and Technical Amendments*** (H.R. 5401). 

CBO has not prepared an official cost estimate for this measure, but it is not expected to affect direct spending or revenue.

5) ***A Bill to Provide for the Participation of Employees in the Judicial Branch in the Federal Leave Transfer Program for Disasters and Emergencies*** (S. 1736). 

This bill provides for the participation of employees of the judicial branch in the Federal emergency leave transfer program. The cost of expanding this authority depends on the number of times a major disaster or emergency occurs, resulting in a Presidential request for a special leave program; and whether the leave donated would have been donated under current law. CBO estimates that the legislation has no significant budgetary impact. It does not affect direct spending or revenue.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

6) **To Designate the Federal Building and United States Courthouse Located at 101 Barr Street in Lexington, Kentucky, as the "Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse"** (H.R. 4530). 

This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

7) **Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005** (H.R. 3858). 

This bill requires States to consider the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals in their emergency preparedness plans. To be eligible to receive financial assistance for emergency preparedness under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, States must submit annual emergency preparedness plans. Any cost incurred by those governments would be a condition of receiving Federal assistance. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3858 would have no significant impact on the Federal budget.

8) **Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006** (H.R. 4681). 

This bill imposes restrictions on aid provided to the Palestinian Authority [PA], and imposes other restrictions on activity by the PA and its officials in the United States. It requires the President to certify and transmit to Congress every 6 months a presidential certification of certain existing conditions, including a determination that no PA ministry, agency, or instrumentality is controlled by a foreign terrorist organization. This bill has no significant budgetary impact and does not affect direct spending or receipts.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: ***Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2007*** (H.R. 5384). 

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: This measure provides appropriations for the Department of Agriculture; the Food and Drug Administration; the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; and the Farm Credit Administration. Among the major discretionary spending programs and agencies addressed in this bill are: the Farm Service Agency; conservation programs; Agricultural Research, Extension, and Economics; marketing and regulatory programs; rural development programs; domestic food assistance; the Food and Drug Administration; and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Cost: This bill provides \$17.812 billion in budget authority [BA] for programs within the Agriculture Subcommittee's jurisdiction. This is \$620 million less than the fiscal year 2006 level, but \$396 million more than the President's request.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate any provision of the Congressional Budget Act.
(Please see the Budget Committee's forthcoming *Appropriations Update* for this measure.)

Bill: ***Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007*** (H.R. 5427). 

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: Included in this bill is budget authority for the programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, certain programs of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy, the Energy Supply and Conservation program,

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which funds renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear energy, non-defense environment, safety, and health programs, and energy conservation. The bill also funds environmental management activities, Environmental Management for facilities under the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Yucca Mountain repository, Defense Nuclear Waste Disposal, and funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration. The bill also provides funding for certain Independent Agencies, such as the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, the Delta Regional Authority, the Denali Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Inspector General, and the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

Cost: This bill provides \$30 billion in fiscal year 2007 BA for programs within the Energy and Water Subcommittee's jurisdiction. This amount is \$545 million above the President's budget request, and \$147 million below the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2006.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate any provision of the Congressional Budget Act.
(Please see the Budget Committee's forthcoming *Appropriations Update* for this measure.)

Bill: *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007.*

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: This bill has not yet been filed, and hence a cost estimate was unavailable. The measure provides budget authority for border protection, immigration enforcement, and related activities. It also provides BA for research into screening of high-risk cargo coming into the United States. It funds an expansion of cargo inspection at foreign ports, improvements to supply chain security, maritime security, and support immigration enforcement efforts.

The bill provides Federal support for first responders, including grants to high threat areas, firefighters, and emergency management; and for the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate. It funds efforts to take a current inventory of the nation's infrastructures. It also provides funds to develop a secure communications system, encompassing Federal, State and local governments.

Cost: The subcommittee's section 302(b) suballocation limits BA in the bill to an overall level of \$32.08 billion for operations and activities of the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2007. This is \$1.822 billion more than fiscal year 2006, and \$1.065 billion above the President's request. The Appropriations Committee has said the bill provides new BA of \$32.08 billion – exactly the amount of the suballocation – but as noted, an official CBO estimate was not available.

Budget Act: If fiscal year 2007 BA does not exceed \$32.08 billion and there are no appropriations for fiscal years after 2007, then it likely does not violate the Budget Act.
(Please see the Budget Committee's forthcoming *Appropriations Update* for this measure.)

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Bill: *To Direct the Secretary of the Interior to Establish and Implement a Competitive Oil and Gas Leasing Program That Will Result in an Environmentally Sound Program for the Exploration, Development, and Production of the Oil and Gas Resources of the Coastal Plain of Alaska* (H.R. 5429). 

Committee: Resources

Summary: The text of this bill was not available, but the language is expected to be similar to a provision in the House-passed version of H.R. 6 – the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 – but stricken in conference. That language would have leased a portion of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge [ANWR] for oil and gas development. Under the H.R. 6 provision, the leases would have been offered in two phases, with the first sale likely to occur in 2009 and the second in 2011.

Cost: Bonuses and rents from the leases described in the H.R. 6 provision would have provided \$6.01 billion in payments over 2009-11, with half of that amount going to the State of Alaska and the other half (\$3 billion) counting as offsetting receipts – a credit against direct spending – for the Federal government. Thus, the H.R. 6 provision would have reduced direct spending by \$3 billion over 2007-11. It would not have affected revenue.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate any provision of the Congressional Budget Act.